

Appl. No. 09/227,593
Amendment dated October 6, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2003

the antimicrobial phosphate ester conveyor lubricant is free of fatty acid; and
phosphate ester and the linear quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent are present in a weight ratio of 1.5:1 to about 30:1.

71. (canceled)

³⁴
~~72.~~ (previously presented) The process of claim ³³~~70~~, wherein the ratio of phosphate ester to the linear quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent is effective to retain clarity of a mixture of the lubricant and a beverage.

73. (canceled)

³⁵
~~74.~~ (previously presented) The process of claim ³³~~70~~, wherein the pH of the lubricant is less than 8.5.

³⁶
~~75.~~ (previously presented) The process of claim ³³~~70~~, wherein the lubricant is formulated to provide increased antimicrobial activity of the linear quaternary ammonium antimicrobial agent when the lubricant is mixed with a beverage having a pH lower than the lubricant.

³⁷
~~76.~~ (previously amended) The process of claim ³³~~70~~, wherein the lubricant composition further comprises sodium hydroxide.

77. (canceled)

³⁸
~~78.~~ (previously presented) The process of claim 77, wherein the chelating agent comprises an aminoacetic acid chelating agent.